

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Substitute Listing of Claims:

- 1. A method of displaying data from a relational database comprising the steps of
 - a. Providing at least two libraries of data from different sources;
 - b. Identifying clusters of related data by comparing the data of each library;
 - c. Providing a multi-dimensional display comprising a figure having loci distributed about the periphery thereof wherein each locus is identified with one data library; and
 - d. Plotting a symbol for each cluster within the multidimensional figure based on a set of coordinates within said multi-dimensional display, wherein said coordinates are a function of a specific comparative analysis applied to said data libraries which contributed data to said cluster.
- 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the comparative analysis includes the number of said data libraries which contribute data to said cluster.
- 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the comparative analysis includes the amount of data from each library which contributes to said cluster.
- 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the comparative analysis includes the percentage of data from each library that contributes to said cluster.
- 5. A method of comparing data libraries containing data represented as alphanumeric characters comprising the steps of
 - a. identifying at least two data libraries containing alphanumeric characters;
 - b. comparing said data libraries for common alphanumeric characters;
 - c. generating a symbol which represents the results of said data comparison;

- d. providing a multi-dimensional display for plotting said symbol, said display comprising a figure having M loci distributed about the periphery thereof wherein each locus is identified with one data library; and
- e. plotting the symbol within the multidimensional figure based on a set of coordinates within said multi-dimensional display, wherein said coordinates are a function of a specific comparative analysis applied to said data libraries.
- 6. The method of claim 5, wherein said comparative analysis includes the number of libraries contributing data to said results.
- 7. The method of claim 5, wherein the comparative analysis includes the amount of data from each library which contributes to said results.
- 8. The method of claim 5, wherein the comparative analysis includes the fraction of total data from each library that contributes to said results.
- 9. A method for displaying data from a relational database of EST libraries comprising the steps of
 - a. providing a plurality of EST libraries;
 - b. identifying contigs by comparing the ESTs of said plurality of EST libraries;
 - providing a multi-dimensional display comprising a figure having loci
 distributed about the periphery thereof, wherein each locus is associated with
 one of said libraries;
 - d. plotting a symbol for each contig within the multidimensional display based on a set of coordinates within said multi-dimensional display, wherein each symbol is disposed within the figure at a point within an area between the loci associated with the libraries which contributed to said contig.

- 10. The method of Claim 9, wherein said coordinates are determined as a function of the number of said libraries which contributed ESTs to said contig.
- 11. The method of Claim 9, wherein said coordinates are determined as a function of the proportion of ESTs in said contig contributed by each of said libraries.
- 12. The method of Claim 9, wherein said coordinates are determined as a function of the number of ESTs in said contig from a given library relative to the total number of ESTs in said library.
- 13. The method of Claim 9, and further comprising selecting a subset of said libraries distributed about the periphery of said multi-dimensional display and repeating steps (b) through (d).
- 14. The method of Claim 9, and further comprising rearranging said libraries distributed about the periphery of said multi-dimensional display and repeating steps (b) through (d).
- 15. The method of Claim 9 wherein said libraries are selected from one or more libraries based on species, cultivar, tissue, developmental stage, or stress condition.
- 16. A computer program for conducting a search for and plotting of alphanumeric data, the computer program being stored on a computer readable medium or transmitted by a propagated signal and comprising:
 - a. A receiving code segment that causes the computer to receive input including one or more search criteria for at least one searchable alphanumeric character in a data library containing alphanumeric characters;
 - b. An assigning code segment that causes the computer to assign a value to each alphanumeric character; and

- c. A plotting code segment that causes the computer to plot the input on a visual display, said plot relating to said value assigned to the alphanumeric character.
- 17. The computer program of claim 16 wherein the receiving code segment receives input for alphanumeric characters that correspond to at least one contig.
- 18. The computer program of claim 17 wherein the value assigned to the contig is dependent on the number of libraries that contribute at least one EST to said contig.
- 19. The computer program of claim 17 wherein the value assigned to the contig is dependent on the total number of ESTs that contribute to said contig.
- 20. The computer program of claim 17 wherein the value assigned to the contig is dependent on the fraction of ESTs from a given library that contributes ESTs to said contig.
- 21. The computer program of claim 18 wherein the plotting code segment plots a plurality of contigs on a visual display thus enabling a computer user to see relationships between and among said plotted contigs.
- 22. The computer program of claim 19 wherein the plotting code segment plots a plurality of contigs on a visual display thus enabling a computer user to see relationships between and among said plotted contigs.
- 23. The computer program of claim 20 wherein the plotting code segment plots a plurality of contigs on a visual display thus enabling a computer user to see relationships between and among said plotted contigs.

- 24. A system for plotting and manipulating data points, the system comprising:
 - A computer program stored on computer readable medium, said program capable of searching, retrieving, and plotting data represented in alphanumeric form;
 - b. Computer means capable of operating said computer program;
 - c. Graphical display means, capable of displaying said data using a plurality of colors.
- 25. The system of claim 24, wherein the computer program searches, retrieves, and plots contigs assembled from libraries containing EST data.
- 26. The system of claim 25, wherein the plotting of each contig depends on a value assigned to that contig by said computer program, said value being a function of the number of libraries that have contributed to said contig.
- 27. The system of claim 25, wherein said value assigned to each contig is a function of the number of ESTs from all libraries that have contributed to said contig.
- 28. The system of claim 25 wherein said value assigned to each contig is a function of the percentage of ESTs in a given library that has contributed data to said contig.